# FDA HOLDS STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS IN THE WESTERN REGION ON THE REGULATION OF MEDICAL DEVICES IN GHANA

The Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) has held two stakeholder meetings on Medical Devices Regulation in the Western Region as part of its public education and sensitization programme, engaging ninety (90) participants in total. The stakeholder engagements were held in Tarkwa (Tarkwa-Nsuaem Municapal District) and Takoradi (Secondi Takoradi Metropolitan District) on the 3rd and 5th September 2019 respectively.

The stakeholder engagements which were aimed at equipping participants with up-to-date information on FDA's Regulatory Framework for Medical Devices brought together participants from Government and Private Hospitals and clinics, diagnostic centres and other health care facilities. The participants were drawn from various backgrounds and included general medical practitioners, midwives, biomedical scientists and engineers, medical laboratory scientists, hospital administrators, pharmacists, nurses, procurement officers, marketers and vendors of medical devices.

In his welcome address, Mr. Abu Sumaila, FDA's Regional Head for the Western Region on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer, highlighted the need for efficient regulation of medical devices to ensure their safety, quality and good performance. He added that stakeholders have a big role to play and admonished participants to embrace the call.

The Head, Medical Devices Department, of the FDA, Mr. Joseph Y.B. Bennie then gave participants an overview of Part VII of the Public Health Act, 2012 (Act 851), the Food and Drugs Law as it relates to medical devices regulation. He also took them through the role of medical devices in efficient healthcare delivery, regulatory requirements, application charges and timelines for registration of medical devices as well as the medical devices evaluation and registration process.

Other presentations were also delivered on topics including medical devices regulation in Ghana: Inspections and Market Surveillance perspective and the role of the medical devices' laboratory in the regulation of medical devices.

In between the two stakeholder engagements and in accordance with its capacity building policy, the FDA through its team of facilitators also took time to offer training on Medical Devices Regulation to officers of the FDA's Western Regional Office on the 4th September 2019. The key training areas were medical devices classification and dossier evaluation of medical devices. Some challenges were also shared.

Overall, the twin programme of stakeholder engagements and staff training were hugely successful as the objectives were met with several participants expressing appreciation for the meetings whilst requesting for frequent stakeholder engagements.

THE STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS IN PICTURES